

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

*Celebrate*

**COMMENCEMENT**

**2025**

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

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THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC



# 2025 COMMENCEMENT

MAY 18, 2025 | NATIONAL MALL

# ORDER OF EXERCISES

<b>PRELUDE</b>	The George Washington University Wind Ensemble <i>Michael Schmitz, Conductor Director of Bands</i>
<b>ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COMMENCEMENT</b>	Christopher Alan Bracey <i>Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs</i>
<b>PROCESSIONAL*</b>	Wind Ensemble <i>selected students escort their school's flag and banners</i>
<b>NATIONAL ANTHEM*</b>	Millicent Scarlett <i>Adjunct Professor of Music</i>
<b>OPENING</b>	Provost Bracey
<b>WELCOME</b>	Grace E. Speights, J.D. '82 <i>Chair, Board of Trustees</i>
<b>GREETING</b>	Ellen M. Granberg <i>President of the University</i>
<b>REFLECTIONS</b>	Maxwell Gocala-Nguyen, M.A. '16 <i>President, GW Alumni Association</i>
<b>STUDENT SPEAKER</b>	Natalia Anzaldúa, O.T.D. '25
<b>CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREES</b>	President Granberg
Mark D. Lerner, B.B.A. '75, Doctor of Humane Letters, <i>honoris causa</i> <i>Presentation of the Candidate</i>	William Ahrens, B.S. '25
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, Doctor of Public Service, <i>honoris causa</i> <i>Presentation of the Candidate</i>	Jennifer S. Lee, M.P.S. '25
Mark R. Shenkman, M.B.A. '67, Doctor of Humane Letters, <i>honoris causa</i> <i>Presentation of the Candidate</i>	Ella Younger, B.S. '25
Jonquel Jones, B.A. '19, Doctor of Humanities, <i>honoris causa</i> <i>Presentation of the Candidate</i>	Maxine Engel, B.S. '25
<b>COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS</b>	Ms. Jones
<b>CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES</b>	President Granberg

**CONFERRING OF DEGREES IN COURSE** ..... President Granberg

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences  
*Presentation of the Graduates* ..... Associate Dean Chad Heap

School of Medicine and Health Sciences  
*Presentation of the Graduates* ..... Dean Barbara L. Bass, RESD '86

GW Law  
*Presentation of the Graduates* ..... Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew

School of Engineering and Applied Science  
*Presentation of the Graduates* ..... Dean John Lach

Graduate School of Education and Human Development  
*Presentation of the Graduates* ..... Dean Michael J. Feuer

School of Business  
*Presentation of the Graduates* ..... Interim Dean Vanessa G. Perry

Elliott School of International Affairs  
*Presentation of the Graduates* ..... Dean Alyssa Ayres

Milken Institute School of Public Health  
*Presentation of the Graduates* ..... Michael and Lori Milken Dean of Public Health Lynn R. Goldman

College of Professional Studies  
*Presentation of the Graduates* ..... Dean Liesl Riddle

School of Nursing  
*Presentation of the Graduates* ..... Dean Susan Kelly-Weeder

**GW FIGHT SONG** ..... Wind Ensemble

**ALMA MATER\*** ..... Ms. Scarlett

**RECESSIONAL\*** ..... Wind Ensemble

**UNIVERSITY MARSHAL**

James Tielsch  
Professor and Chair, Department of Global Health  
Milken Institute School of Public Health

## ORDER OF EXERCISES

### FACULTY MARSHALS

Ricky Allen, M.H.S.A. '00  
Adjunct Professor  
Milken Institute School of Public Health

Denver Brunsman  
Chair, Department of History  
Columbian College of Arts and Sciences

Evangeline Downie  
Professor of Physics  
Columbian College of Arts and Sciences

Leonard Friedman  
Professor  
Milken Institute School of Public Health

Toni Marsh  
Program Director, Paralegal Studies; Associate Professor  
College of Professional Studies  
Columbian College of Arts and Sciences

Jill Kasle  
Associate Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration  
Columbian College of Arts and Sciences

Gaetano Lotrecchiano  
Associate Professor  
School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Lisa Schwartz  
Associate Professor  
School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Alexander van der Horst  
Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Physics  
Columbian College of Arts and Sciences

*\*Those who are able are asked to stand for these portions of the program.  
At the conclusion of the program, please remain standing until the platform party has left the stage.*

# STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

## **Columbian College of Arts and Sciences**

Yair Ben-Dor, B.S. '25  
*flagbearer*

Meredith Durand, M.A. '25

Jonathan Huie, Ph.D. '25

Marguerite "Maggie" Larson, B.A. '25

Nicholas Perkins, B.A. '25

## **School of Medicine and Health Sciences**

Jeffrey Shipley, M.D. '25  
*flagbearer*

Kelly Feng, M.D. '25

Lina Qi, M.D. '25

Halley Wright, M.D. '25

## **GW Law**

Leia Ficks, J.D. '25  
*flagbearer*

Bilguun Adiya, L.L.M. '25

Noor Butt, J.D. '25

Lauren Davidson, J.D. '25

Claire Li, J.D. '25

Kale Wright, J.D. '25

## **School of Engineering and Applied Science**

Vigna Vemparala, M.S. '25  
*flagbearer*

Eguakhide Reagan Anetor, M.S. '25

Charishna Kathi, M.S. '25

Sumedha Reddy Mannem, M.S. '25

Sara Youssoufi, Ph.D. '25

## **Graduate School of Education and Human Development**

Katy Coleman, M.A. '25  
*flagbearer*

Jay Birkhoff, M.A. '25

Mary Christenbury, M.A. '25

Jacob Herz, M.A. '25

Hana Woolley, M.A. '25

## **School of Business**

Jalinette Reyes, B.S. '25  
*flagbearer*

Arian Ravi Agadi, B.S. '25

Liam Klass, M.A. '25

Ishita Dedhia, M.S. '25

Christina Taylor, M.B.A. '25

## **Elliott School of International Affairs**

Eunyoung "Debbie" Kwak, B.A. '25  
*flagbearer*

Emma Bowman, B.A. '25

Yuval Cohen, M.A. '25

Patrick Centeno, M.A. '25

Samuel Vogler, M.A. '25

## **Milken Institute School of Public Health**

Paola Rocha Romo, M.P.H. '25  
*flagbearer*

Martha Arce, M.H.A. '25

Nadia Bey, M.P.H. '25

Roxanne Paleo, M.S. '25

Alejandra Ramirez-Cavazos, B.S. '25

## **College of Professional Studies**

Khadija Taki, B.P.S. '25  
*flagbearer*

Brayden Caraynoff-Huber, M.P.S. '25

John Fisher, M.P.S. '25

Alaysia McKenzie, M.P.S. '25

## **School of Nursing**

Bruno Rustico, D.N.P. '25  
*flagbearer*

Skylar Son, B.S. '25

Fatou Ahmed Jallow, B.S. '25

Dorcas Akinola, M.S.N. '25

## MESSAGE TO THE GRADUATES



### *A Message to the Graduates from President Ellen M. Granberg*

Dear Graduates,

I am honored to welcome you to the George Washington University's 2025 Commencement ceremony.

Throughout your experience at GW, you have acquired new knowledge, grappled with big ideas, and inspired your colleagues and teachers with your passion and determination. Outside the classroom, you have thrived in athletics, inspired through the arts, and given back to your communities. You have worked hard to fulfill the rigorous requirements of a GW degree and are prepared to embark on a new and exciting life chapter.

For more than two centuries, GW has changed the world through exceptional education, discipline-defining scholarship, and outstanding patient care and public service. As the newest members of our worldwide community of more than 330,000 alumni, you are already extending this impressive legacy thanks to the passion, curiosity, and commitment to learning that you cultivated at GW.

Your graduation comes at a time marked by many defining moments for our world. However, I am confident your experiences at GW have given you the skills, knowledge, and resources you need to tackle these pressing challenges and serve the public good. You came to GW to learn to change the world, and I have no doubt that you will.

Though your journey will take you toward new horizons, please stay in touch. No matter where you go, GW will always be here for you and will welcome you home. We are proud of all you have accomplished and can't wait to see what the future holds for you.

Congratulations!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen M. Granberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "E" and "M".

Ellen M. Granberg  
*President*

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



### *Jonquel Jones, B.A. '19 Doctor of Humanities, honoris causa*

Jonquel Jones currently plays for the NY Liberty. The Bahamian born star moved to the U.S. when she was 14 to pursue her dream to play professional basketball where she attended Riverdale Baptist High School. Jones's career took off during her time at GW, where she was named Atlantic 10 player of the year in 2017 and Atlantic 10 Defensive Player of the Year in 2015. Jones left college with Associated Press and WBCA All-America Honorable Mention, Wade Watch List, Naismith Trophy Midseason 30, USBWA Ann Meyers Drysdale Award Midseason Watch List, Wooden Award Preseason Top 30, Atlantic 10 All-Conference Second Team and All-Defensive Team.

Jones was drafted sixth overall in the 2016 WNBA Draft and spent her early career with the Connecticut Sun. During her time with the Sun, Jones was named WNBA MVP (2021), All-WNBA First Team, three-time All-WNBA third team, WNBA Most Improved Player (2017), Sixth Player of the Year (2018) and three time all defensive teams. In 2023, Jones was traded to the New York Liberty. This previous 2024 season, Jones and the Liberty won the WNBA Finals Championship where she was named Finals MVP. Jones is a five-time WNBA All Star.

## HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS



### *Mark D. Lerner, B.B.A. '75 Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa*

Mark D. Lerner, B.B.A. '75, has distinguished himself in real estate, sports and community development.

As managing principal owner and vice chairman of the Washington Nationals, native Washingtonian Lerner led the franchise to its historic 2019 World Series championship. His leadership of the Nats has also emphasized community engagement, philanthropy and organizational excellence. Lerner credits his time at GW for providing the cornerstone for his personal and professional journey and the foundation for his varied career accomplishments.

Since graduating, he has remained deeply engaged with the university community, serving on the board of directors of GW Hillel and supporting initiatives including Annette and Theodore Lerner Family Health and Wellness Center and the Lerner Family Associate Dean for Public Interest and Public Service Law. Lerner, a member of a multi-generational GW family, was named a Monumental Alumnus by GW in 2021 in recognition of his contributions to the university.

In addition to his role in professional sports, Lerner is a principal of Lerner Enterprises, one of the largest and most respected private real estate development firms in the Washington, D.C., area. The company is recognized for its commitment to quality, innovation and sustainable development. Lerner was named a laureate inductee into the Washington Business Hall of Fame in 2020, celebrating his impact on the region's private sector economy as well as his philanthropic efforts, including as vice chairman of the Annette M. Lerner and Theodore Lerner Family Foundation.



## *The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton*

### *Doctor of Public Service, honoris causa*

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, serving as congresswoman for the District of Columbia since 1991, is the Chair of the House Subcommittee on Highways and Transit. She serves on two committees: the Committee on Oversight and Reform and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Before her congressional service, President Jimmy Carter appointed her to serve as the first woman to chair the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She came to Congress as a national figure who had been a civil rights and feminist leader, tenured professor of law, and board member at three Fortune 500 companies. Congresswoman Norton has been named one of the 100 most important American women in one survey and one of the most powerful women in Washington in another. The Congresswoman's work for full congressional voting representation and for full democracy for the people of the District of Columbia continues her lifelong struggle for universal human and civil rights.

Congresswoman Norton's accomplishments in breaking barriers for her disempowered district are matched by her success in bringing home unique economic benefits to her constituents. Among them are senatorial courtesy to recommend federal judges, the U.S. Attorney, and other significant federal law enforcement positions for the District; up to \$10,000 per year for all D.C. high school graduates to attend any public U.S. college or university and up to \$2,500 per year to many private colleges and universities; a unique \$5,000 D.C. homebuyer tax credit, which has sharply increased home ownership in the District and was a major factor in stabilizing the city's population; and D.C. business tax incentives, including a significant wage credit for employing D.C. residents, which has maintained businesses and residents in the District.

Congresswoman Norton also has brought significant economic development to the District of Columbia throughout her service in Congress, creating and preserving jobs in D.C. The most significant are her work in bringing to D.C. the U.S. Department of Homeland Security headquarters compound, now under construction, and is the largest federal construction project in the country; her bill that is developing the 55 acre-Southeast Federal Center, the first private development on federal land; her work that resulted in the relocation of 6,000 jobs to the Washington Navy Yard; and her successful efforts to bring to the District the new headquarters for the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, along with an additional Metro station at New York Avenue, which has resulted in the development of the NOMA neighborhood.

Congresswoman Norton helped end the city's most serious financial crisis in a century, in the 1990s, by achieving a historic package that for the first time restructured the financial relationship between Congress and the District, by transferring \$5 billion in unfunded pension liabilities and billions more in state costs to the federal government.

The Congresswoman, who taught law full time before being elected, is a tenured professor of law at Georgetown University, teaching an upper-class seminar there every year. After receiving her bachelor's degree from Antioch College in Ohio, she simultaneously earned her law degree and a master's degree in American Studies from Yale University. Yale Law School has awarded her the Citation of Merit for outstanding alumni, and Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences has awarded her the Wilbur Cross Medal for outstanding alumni, the highest awards conferred by each on alumni. She is the recipient of more than 50 honorary degrees.

Before being elected, Congresswoman Norton served as a trustee on a number of public service boards, including the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Board of Governors of the D.C. Bar Association, as well as served on the boards of civil rights and other national organizations.

The Congresswoman is a third-generation Washingtonian, and is the mother of John Holmes Norton and Katherine Felicia Norton.

## HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS



### *Mark R. Shenkman, M.B.A. '67*

*Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa*

Mark R. Shenkman is a financier, collector of American history and philanthropist. He founded Shenkman Capital Management, Inc. in 1985 and is the firm's Founder and President. He has built the firm into one of the leading asset managers in leveraged finance. With 56 years of investment experience, and 48 years of high yield investment experience, he is considered one of the pioneers of the high yield bond and loan markets. In 2018, the Fixed Income Analyst Society (FIASI) inducted Shenkman into its Hall of Fame and in 2023, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Museum of American Finance. Shenkman received an M.B.A. from the George Washington University in 1967 and is a Board of Trustee Emeritus at the George Washington University.

Additionally, Shenkman is actively involved in not-for-profit and philanthropic activities, including serving as an emeritus member of the Board of Directors of the UCONN Foundation and former Chairman of the Board; Vice Chairman of the Board at Wilbraham & Monson Academy since 1969; and is a Board of Advisor Emeritus at the College of William and Mary, Mason School of Business. He is a co-author of two textbooks on the high yield market, entitled "High Yield Bonds: Market Structure, Portfolio Management and Credit Risk Modeling" (McGraw Hill, 1999) and "Leveraged Financial Markets" (McGraw Hill, 2010). Shenkman also received a Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, from the University of Connecticut in 2007.

Prior to founding Shenkman Capital Management, Inc., Shenkman was President and Chief Investment Officer of First Investors Asset Management in New York. He also was Co-Manager and Vice President of the High Yield Bond Department at Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb in New York, where he established one of Wall Street's earliest departments dedicated to the research, selling and trading of high yield securities. Shenkman was a research analyst and a portfolio manager at Fidelity Management and Research Company in Boston. From 1978 to 1979, he managed the first high yield bond mutual funds at Fidelity. From 1967 to 1969, Shenkman served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Computer Systems Command. Shenkman received a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Connecticut in 1965.

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS

## THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY

Grace E. Speights, J.D. '82

*Chair*

Mark H. Chichester, B.B.A. '90, J.D. '93

*Vice Chair*

Avram Tucker, B.B.A. '77

*Secretary*

Christine Piorkowski Barth, B.B.A. '88

Aaron Bates, B.A. '98

Charles R. Bendit, B.B.A. '75

Raymond J. Brimble, M.A. '76

Adam Conner, B.A. '06

Jeffrey Flaks, M.H.S.A. '96

Regina James

Richard A. Jones, J.D. '84

Todd Klein

Ali H. Kolaghassi, B.B.A. '90

Luis Otero, B.B.A. '20, M.S. '21

Judith Lane Rogers, A.A. '74 (MVC)

Michelle Rubin, B.A. '91

Donna Hill Staton, J.D. '82

Jennifer Park Stout, M.A. '06

Camila Tapias, B.A. '18, M.P.A. '20

Ellen M. Granberg (ex officio)

Henry "Ric" Duques, B.B.A. '65,

M.B.A. '69

Emilio Fernandez, M.S. '76

I. Allan From, B.B.A. '72

David Gladstone

Gary Granoff, B.B.A. '69, J.D. '73

Mark V. Hughes, B.A. '69, M.S. '77

Raymond J. Oglethorpe, M.S. '69

The Honorable B. J. Penn, M.S. '80

Linda D. Rabbitt, M.A. '72

Sharon Percy Rockefeller

Mark R. Shenkman, M.B.A. '67

Lydia W. Thomas

The Honorable Mark R. Warner, B.A. '77, HON '03

J. McDonald Williams, J.D. '66

### CHAIR EMERITI

Oliver T. Carr Jr., HON '98

John D. Zeglis, HON '02

W. Russell Ramsey, B.B.A. '81, HON '14

Nelson A. Carbonell Jr., B.S. '85, HON '21

### TRUSTEES EMERITI

Richard Blackburn, J.D. '67

Nancy Broyhill, B.A. '65

## UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS

Ellen M. Granberg

*President*

### UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS

Donna Arbide

*Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations*

Hemant Bakshi

*Vice President for Finance and Assistant Treasurer*

Charles Barber

*Vice President and General Counsel*

Barbara L. Bass, RESD '86

*Vice President for Health Affairs*

Christopher Alan Bracey

*Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Colette Coleman, M.B.A. '14

*Vice Provost for Student Affairs*

Bruno Fernandes

*Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer*

Jay Goff

*Vice Provost for Enrollment and Student Success*

Baxter Goodly, M.A. '01

*Vice President for Safety and Operations*

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*Associate Vice President and Director of Athletics*

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*Associate Vice President for Government and Community Relations*

Sabrina Minor

*Vice President for Human Resource Management & Development and Chief People Officer*

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*Vice President for Communications and Marketing*

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J.D. '99

*Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff*

Teresa Murphy

*Deputy Provost for Academic Affairs*

Jonathan E. Post

*Vice President for Board Relations and Secretary of the University*

### DEANS

Alyssa Ayres

*Elliott School of International Affairs*

Barbara L. Bass, RESD '86

*School of Medicine and Health Sciences*

Colette Coleman, M.B.A. '14

*Students*

Michael J. Feuer

*Graduate School of Education and Human Development*

Lynn R. Goldman

*Milken Institute School of Public Health*

Geneva Henry

*Libraries and Academic Innovation*

Susan Kelly-Weeder

*School of Nursing*

John Lach

*School of Engineering and Applied Science*

Gina Lohr

*Virginia Science and Technology Campus*

Dayna Bowen Matthew

*GW Law*

Vanessa G. Perry (interim)

*School of Business*

Liesl Riddle

*College of Professional Studies*

Paul J. Wahlbeck

*Columbian College of Arts and Sciences*

# UNIVERSITY TRADITIONS

## THE UNIVERSITY MACE

A new university mace was commissioned for President Granberg's inauguration in November of 2023. Historically, maces were used as weapons, first on battlefields and then to protect university rectors from mischief. The GW mace bears an image of George Washington and of the university's seal as well as "1821" (the year the university was chartered by Congress).



## THE UNIVERSITY SEAL

The seal of the George Washington University incorporates the head of George Washington, as painted by Gilbert Stuart. An open Bible shows a verse in Greek from the Gospel. According to John 1:1-4, on the left page: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God," and, on the right page: "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." Upon the background are the words Deus Nobis Fiducia, "God in our Trust."

## THE SCHOOL FLAGS AND GONFALONS

GW's Commencement begins with the academic procession that includes the presentation of school flags, accompanied by gonfalons (banners hung from crossbars). The gonfalons reflect the university's colors, buff and blue, with banners in colors representing that school's field of study. Selected students from each of the university's ten schools carry, or escort, their school's flag and gonfalons and are presented in the order of the founding of their school or college.

The flag of the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences shows a book on a field of blue, representing philosophy. The book is a reference to the original seal of the Columbian College in which a book is featured prominently with Greek letters that quote from the Book of John.

The flag of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences shows the wand of Asclepius against the traditional green field.

The flag of GW Law has a figure of blind Justice with scales to represent the impartiality of law and a sword to symbolize power. She is shown on a purple field, the traditional color of the discipline of law.

The flag of the School of Engineering and Applied Science has an orange circle against a white background.

The flag of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development notes its commitment to lifelong learning with the torch and books against the light blue field of the discipline.

The flag of the School of Business presents its medal of achievement on a khaki-colored field.

The flag of the Elliott School of International Affairs has the land masses of the Earth against a white background and a red border.

The flag of the Milken Institute School of Public Health has a green cross against a salmon background with a green border.

The flag of the College of Professional Studies has a lighthouse against a beige background.

The flag of the School of Nursing has a shield with the lamp of learning. The shield is enclosed by a navy blue banner and sits against an apricot background.

### **GW FIGHT SONG**

Hail to the Buff,

Hail to the Blue,

Hail to the Buff and Blue!

All our lives we'll be proud to say,

We hail from GW! (Go Big Blue!)

Oh, by George, we're happy we can say,

We're GW, here to show the way, so

Raise high the Buff!

Raise high the Blue!

Loyal to GW

You bet we're

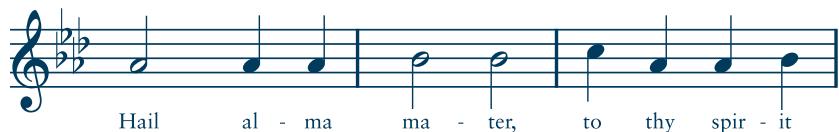
Loyal to GW!

Fight!

# SHARE YOUR DAY

#GWCommencement

## ALMA MATER



## THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY ON THE NATIONAL MALL

If an emergency situation should develop during the ceremony on the National Mall, the U.S. Park Police will either evacuate the site or direct the audience to shelter in place. Please follow the direction of the U.S. Park Police.

### IF THE ALTERNATE SITE PLAN IS IMPLEMENTED

All graduates and members of the platform party should report to the Charles E. Smith Center, 600 22nd Street, NW. For alternate site plan information, please visit [commencement.gwu.edu](http://commencement.gwu.edu).

Families and guests can watch the full ceremony online at [commencement.gwu.edu](http://commencement.gwu.edu).

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that we are in the territory of many Indigenous peoples that have known the Potomac Valley and its lands and waters as their homeland for thousands of years to the present day, including Algonquin, Iroquois, Siouan peoples and in particular the Piscataway Tribes.

We are just beginning our engagement with traditionally associated Native American communities to identify all of the different connections with these lands held by many Native Nations. Together we recognize the Native Nations' past, present, and future unbroken and unbreakable connections to these lands. We honor the resilience and perseverance of these Nations even as colonizers claimed this land as their own.